

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An electrical ~~multi-layer~~ component comprising:  
[[ - ]] ~~having~~ a base ~~body (1)~~ comprising:  
[[ - ]] ~~containing a stack (1a) of stratified ceramic layers, (2) and~~  
internal electrodes ~~lying~~ between at least some of the ceramic layers; and  
~~them (3)~~  
[[ - ]] ~~in which~~ an external electrode (5) ~~is placed on a one lateral face (4) of the base~~  
~~body (1), for the external electrode contacting at least some of the internal electrodes (3),~~  
the external electrode comprising [[ - ]] which has the form of a layer[[,]] that has [[ - ]] and  
~~in which~~ at least one local minimum indentation (6) is provided.
2. (Currently Amended) The electrical component ~~as recited in~~ of claim 1,  
wherein the ~~outer~~ external electrode (5) ~~has comprises~~ areas having a (14) with an  
~~essentially constant~~ layer thickness that is substantially constant (d).
3. (Currently Amended) The electrical component of claim 1 ~~as recited in one of~~  
~~claims 1 or 2~~, wherein the ~~outer~~ external electrode (5) ~~contains comprises~~ copper.

4. (Currently Amended) The electrical component of claim 1 ~~as recited in one of claims 1 through 3~~, wherein the ceramic layers ~~(2)~~ are piezoelectrically active.

5. (Currently Amended) The electrical component of claim 1 ~~as recited in one of claims 1 through 4~~, wherein the at least one local minimum comprises plural indentations, the plural indentations being disposed at an angle relative to the face of the base ~~(6) run in the form of troughs with longitudinal axes (7), and wherein the projection of the longitudinal axes (7) on the lateral face of the stack (1a) with the outer electrode intersects the internal electrodes (3) at an angle  $\alpha$ .~~

6. (Currently Amended) The electrical component of claim 1 ~~as recited in one of claims 1 through 5~~, wherein a plurality of the at least one local minimum comprises plural indentations, the plural indentations being spaced apart from one another ~~(6) are arranged at substantially equal distances.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The electrical component of claim 1 ~~as recited in one of claims 1 through 5~~, wherein a plurality of the at least one local minimum comprises plural indentations, the plural indentations being ~~(6) are distributed~~ substantially uniformly over the ~~outer~~ external electrode ~~(5)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The electrical component of claim 1 ~~as recited in one of claims 1 through 5~~, wherein a plurality of the at least one local minimum comprises plural

indentations, the plural indentations forming (6) form a periodically recurring pattern structure.

9. (Currently Amended) The electrical component of claim 1 ~~as recited in one of~~ ~~claims 1 through 8~~, wherein the external electrode has a substantially constant layer thickness at areas other than the at least one local minimum ~~(d) in indentations (6) has a local minimum ( $d_{\min}$ )~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The electrical component ~~as recited in~~ of claim 9, wherein  ~~$d_{\min}$~~  the at least one local minimum has is a maximum of 75% of the substantially constant layer thickness ~~(d)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The electrical component of claim 1 ~~as recited in one of~~ ~~claims 1 through 10~~, wherein, at the at least one local minimum, the ~~outer~~ external electrode has a thickness of about zero ~~(5) is interrupted at the indentations (6)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The electrical component of claim 1 ~~as recited in one of~~ ~~claims 1 through 11~~, wherein the ~~outer~~ external electrode ~~(5)~~ is formed from ~~applied in the form of~~ a screen processing paste containing copper powder.

13. (Currently Amended) The electrical component of claim 1 ~~as recited in one of claims 1 through 12~~, wherein the at least one local minimum has indentations (6) ~~have a~~ width ~~(b)~~ of at least 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .

14. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an electrical ~~multi-layer~~ component, comprising with the following steps:

~~a) production of~~ producing a base, the base comprising:

body (1) containing a stack (1a) of stratified ceramic layers, (2) and internal electrodes (3) lying between at least some of the ceramic layers them, wherein attached to the lateral a face (4) of the base body (1) there is comprising an outside external electrode (5) for contacting that contacts at least some internal electrodes (3), having the form of the external electrode comprising a layer and in which having at least one local minimum indentation; (6) is provided.

~~b) contacting of~~ establishing contact between the outer external electrode (5) with and a contact element; and (12) while

exerting a shearing load force between the outer external electrode (5) and the lateral face (4) of the base containing the external electrode body (1).

15. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as recited in~~ of claim 14, wherein the external electrode and the ceramic layers comprise materials with differing thermal expansion coefficients; are used for the outer electrode (5) and the ceramic layers (2), and

~~where the contacting of the outer~~ wherein soldering is used to establish contact  
between the external electrode (5) ~~with a and the contact element (12) takes place by~~  
~~soldering.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The method of as recited in claim 15, wherein ~~copper is~~  
~~used for the outer~~ external electrode comprises copper, the ceramic layers comprise and a  
PZT ceramic ~~for the ceramic layers~~, and the method further comprises:

~~where attaching~~ wires ~~are attached~~ to the ~~outer~~ external electrode (5) by soldering  
at a temperature  $[[>]]$  that is greater than 200° C ~~for contacting the outer electrode (5).~~

17. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the shearing force is exerted while  
contact is being established.

18. (New) An electrical component comprising:  
ceramic layers;  
electrodes between at least some of the ceramic layers, the ceramic layers and the  
electrode layers together forming a stack having a first surface and a second surface, the  
electrode layers comprising alternating first electrodes and second electrodes, the first  
electrodes extending to the first surface but not to the second surface, the second  
electrodes extending to the second surface but not to the first surface; and  
an external electrode on the first surface, the external electrode contacting the first  
electrodes, and the external electrode comprising a layer having one or more local

minima.

19. (New) The electrical component of claim 18, wherein the stack comprises passive zones adjacent to the first surface and the second surface.

20. (New) The electrical component of claim 18, wherein the one or more local minima have a layer thickness of zero.

21. (New) The electrical component of claim 18, wherein the one or more local minima comprise indentations in the layer comprising the external electrode.

22. (New) The electrical component of claim 21, wherein the indentations are at least 25% less thick than a remainder of the layer comprising the external electrode.

23. (New) The electrical component of claim 18, further comprising one or more wires soldered to the external electrode.

24. (New) The electrical component of claim 18, wherein the local minima form troughs that are at an angle relative to the face of the stack.

25. (New) The electrical component of claim 24, wherein the troughs form substantially regular patterns on the face of the stack.